

No. I. A Habitat of Schomburgk's Deer (*Cervus schomburgki*).

In a paper by Major E. Seidenfaden in Volume XIII of the Journal of the Siam Society, the following passage occurs (Part 3, May 1920, pp. 49, 50):—

"In 1919 I met several hunters from Amphö Pu Kio (now called Pak Bang) who told me that a tribe called *Khā Dong Lüang* (the withered leaves' savages) or *Khā Tam Bang* (the savages who can make themselves invisible) lived in the jungle on the slopes of the big Pu Kio mountain, which to the west separates Amphö Pak Bang from the Petchabun changvad. These Khā are under middle height, well built, but very dark hued; their hair is lank and straight as that of mongoloid races, not curly as that of negroids; both sexes go entirely naked; they do not construct houses but live under some hastily erected leaf shelters like the Semang; and they leave these shelters, after some few days (hence the name *Khā Dong Lüang*). Their only weapon is a sort of wooden javelin, the point of which is hardened in fire; they are courageous and able hunters and chase and kill both the one-horned and the two-horned rhinoceros (Kaso), the sladang or Kating ox, deer and wild pigs and that rare animal, Schomburgk's deer, which is living just in this region."

This locality is either within, or very near, the area to which Mr. P. R. Kemp considers *Cervus schomburgki* to be restricted (Journ. N. H. S. Siam III, p. 7), and helps us towards a more definite knowledge of its habitat.

The Journal of the Siam Society is not commonly consulted by zoologists, and the passage is of sufficient interest to have their attention called to it.

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**No. II. The status of the Burmese House-Crow
(*Corvus splendens insolens*) as a Siamese Bird.**

Oates, in writing of *C. insolens* [Handbook Birds Brit. Burmah (1883) I, p. 399], remarks that "It has been sent from Siam, where it is probably abundant; and Dr. Tiraud states that this species is the common House-Crow of Cochin China." The same author [Fauna Brit. India, Birds I (1889), p. 21] observes that "This species extends into Siam and Cochin China."

The next reference which I can trace is that of Gyldenstolpe [Kungl. Sv. Vet. Akad. Hand., Band 50, No. 8. (1913), p. 18] who says of *Corvus insolens*:—"Very common in Bangkok and its

neighbourhood, but I failed to observe it in Northern Siam, though it possibly occurs round the towns and villages with the Jungle-Crow. In real jungles, however, it is always replaced by *Corvus macrorhynchus* Wagl."

Gyldenstolpe was, of course, in error in stating that this bird is very common in Bangkok and its neighbourhood, as I pointed out in Part I of my Paper on the Birds of Bangkok in the Journal of this Society, Vol. I, No. 2, page 76 (1914). I remarked then that I had never seen the bird here.

Finally, Gyldenstolpe in "A Nominal List of the Birds at present known to inhabit Siam" (Ibis, 1920, p. 448), observes:—"In the British Museum (Natural History) there is a specimen collected by Mouhot in Siam. Also observed in Bangkok by the present author."

Some years ago Mr. K. G. Gairdner informed me that he had seen this bird at Petchaburi, a town about 150 km. south-west of Bangkok on the Southern line of railway, and the Rev. Lucius C. Bulkley, of Petchaburi, states (in a letter just received) that he has always understood that the Burmese House-Crow was found at Ratburi — 101 km. west of Bangkok, on the same line. Both these towns are in the Province of Rajaburi. I am not aware of the locality where Mouhot obtained his specimen, but as he spent four months in Petchaburi Province in 1860, it may well be that he procured it there.

In the Bangkok Museum there are two mounted specimens, in an excellent state of preservation, with a label giving the Latin and English names, but no date—the handwriting being said to be that of the late Dr. E. Haase, Scientific Director of the Museum, who died in Bangkok in 1894. The taxidermist of the Museum,

Khun Bamrung (คุณบำรุง), informs me that he himself shot the birds at Pran, in S. E. Siam, 235 km. from Bangkok on the Southern line, and about 85 km. south of Petchaburi. The year, he states emphatically, was that of the "trouble with the French," i.e., 1893, when a French Inspector of Police was shot on the Mekong, and two French gunboats forced the passage of the Menam Chao Phya (the river on which Bangkok stands) after a skirmish with the forts at the mouth of the river. This date coincides well with that of the death of Dr. Haase, who was succeeded at the Museum by Capt. Stanley S. Flower.

The position appears, therefore, to be that three authentic Siamese specimens of the Burmese House-Crow are on record—one obtained by Mouhot about the year 1860, now in the British Museum in London, and two collected by Khun Bamrung, the taxidermist of the Bangkok Museum about the year 1893, and still

in that institution, mounted and exhibited in a case. I have handled these specimens. Certain it is that the bird is now very rare in Siam, and has not been procured by any recent collector. Pran, the place where the two specimens in the Bangkok Museum were procured, is only 19 km. south of Nong Kae, on the same line, where I collected for a week in December 1917 without seeing a sign of this bird.

The Siamese name for the Burmese Jungle-Crow (*Corvus coronoides andamanensis*)* is Kā (ကာ), while they know the Burmese House-Crow as Kae (ကော်) — both words being, of course, onomatopœic, as are so many Siamese names of birds. Nong Kae (หนองแกော်), the place mentioned above, means "The swamp of the Kae's", so the bird must have been found there once.

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* In adopting Beavan's name I follow Stuart Baker in his "Hand-List of the Birds of India"—Journ. Bo. Nat. Hist. Soc., xxvii No. 2 (1920), p. 230. It is to be noted, however, that Gyldenstolpe (Ibis, 1920, p. 448), has accepted the name given by Stresemann (*C. c. hainanus*) as applying to the Siamese form. In its wide sense the bird is, of course, *C. macrorhynchos* auct.

